

**AGENDA INFORMATION**  
**Three Rivers Community Plan Update**  
**Community Meeting**  
**Monday March 14, 2016 6:00 P.M.**  
**Three Rivers Veterans Memorial Building**  
**43490 Sierra Drive**  
**Three Rivers, CA**

**3. Discussion of Special Topics.**

**(a) Water Quality and Quantity.**

1. General Plan Policies Regarding Water Quality, Quantity, and Implementation.
2. Draft Three Rivers Community Update Regarding Water Quality.
3. Tulare County Ordinance Code Chapter 13. Wells.
4. Tulare County Ordinance Code Chapter 1. Subdivision of Land.
5. Tulare County Improvement Standards.
6. Three Rivers CSD LAFCo Inventory Overview.
7. State Department of Water Resources Classification of Water Systems.

**During the Three Rivers Community Plan Update Process, it is not the intent of the County to initiate or add additional water policies or regulations, as that is the purview of the State policy makers. The intent of this special topics discussion is to better inform the public regarding water quality and quantity policies and procedures associated with the review and permitting of new development.**

**Background/Overview:**

*The Tulare County General Plan and Draft Three Rivers Community Plan Update contain numerous policies addressing Water quality and quantity. In addition the Tulare County Ordinance Code and Tulare County Improvement Standards include health and infrastructure standards for new wells and water supply systems. The Three Rivers CSD includes the following active powers related to water quality, monitoring of potable water sources and Monitoring of individual septic systems.*

*The Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) of the Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) works closely with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regarding water quality issues in Tulare County. The California Department of Water Resources Division of Drinking Water provides direct regulatory oversight of all public water systems having 5 or more service connections. The EHSD's water program provides a periodic inspection of the water source, usually a well. The water program oversees the sampling and analysis of water for bacteriological, inorganic, and organic chemical contamination. Additionally, the EHSD requires sampling and analysis of all new individual domestic water wells in the county. Analysis for bacteria, nitrates, and DBCP are required*

*for wells installed on the valley floor. Analysis for bacteria, nitrates, and radiological constituents are required for wells installed in foothill or mountain locations.*

Discussion.

**3. Discussion of Special Topics.**

**(b) Noise.**

1. Draft Three Rivers Community Plan Update Policies Noise
2. General Plan Policies: Noise
3. General Plan Table 10.1 Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments

**The Tulare County General Plan 2030 Update adopted in 2012 incorporates Noise Standards from the State Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services which developed criteria and guidelines for local governments to use when setting standards for human exposure to noise and for preparing noise elements for General Plans. Please see General Plan Table 10.1 Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments attached as exhibit 3 (b) 3 in the agenda materials. Table 1 clearly dictates the range of acceptable levels of exposure to noise in the community. Staff does not anticipate creation of new noise ordinances as part of the community plan update process, however, former RMA Director and now CAO Mike Spata has stated that the Three Rivers Draft EIR will evaluate community noise which may result in possible recommendations.**

*Background/Overview: The purpose of the Noise Element is to limit the exposure of the community to excessive noise levels. The Noise Element lists and maps current and projected noise levels for existing and planned land uses and levels for freeways, airports, and railroads. The projected noise levels are used to guide future land use decisions to limit noise and its effects on the community. The Noise Element contains policies and standards for limiting the noise generated from future projects as well as means to abate existing noise problems.*

*Government Code Section 65302(f) states that a general plan shall include a Noise Element which identifies and appraises noise problems in the community. The Noise Element shall recognize the guidelines established by the Office of Noise Control in the California State Department of Health Services and shall analyze and quantify, to the extent practical, current and projected noise levels for all of the following sources: ♦ Highways and freeways. ♦ Primary arterials and major local streets. ♦ Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems. ♦ Commercial, general aviation, heliport, and military airport operations, aircraft overflights, and jet engine test stands. ♦ Stationary noise sources, including local industrial plants. ♦ Other ground stationary noise sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.*

*The predominant community noise rating scale used in California for land use compatibility assessment is the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL). The CNEL rating represents the average of equivalent noise levels, known as Leq's, for a 24 hour period based on an A-weighted decibel with upward adjustments added to account for increased noise sensitivity in the evening and night periods. These adjustments are +5 dBA for the evening, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., and +10 dBA for the night, 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. CNEL may be indicated by "dBA CNEL" or just "CNEL".*

*Another commonly used method is the day/night average level or Ldn. The Ldn is a measure of the 24-hour average noise level at a given location. It was adopted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for developing criteria for the evaluation of community noise exposure. It is based on a measure of the average noise level over a given time period called the Leq. The Ldn is calculated by averaging the Leq's for each hour of the day at a given location after penalizing the "sleeping hours" (defined as 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.), by 10 dBA to account for the increased sensitivity of people to noises that occur at night.*

*The Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services has developed criteria and guidelines for local governments to use when setting standards for human exposure to noise and preparing noise elements for General Plans. These guidelines include noise exposure levels for both exterior and interior environments. In addition, Title 25, Section 1092 of the California Code of Regulations sets forth requirements for the insulation of multiple-family residential dwelling units from excessive and potentially harmful noise. The State indicates that locating units in areas where exterior ambient noise levels exceed 60 CNEL is undesirable.*

#### Discussion.